(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the ongoing world outrage over the detention centre established by the Incident Command System (ICS) at Guantanamo five years back on January 11, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken against this inhuman torture activities of the US there and pressure to wind up Guantanamo detention centre?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) India believes in protection of human rights and the observance of rule of law, and considers ill-treatment and abuse of prisoners abhorrent. Government of India's views regarding the need to address public perceptions of their policies have been made known to the concerned Government.

Meeting of delegation of U.S. Jewish organisation

1852. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level delegation of U.S. Jewish organization met P.M. last month; and

(b) if so, the purpose of this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A delegation from the U.S. of the Board of Directors of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on January 23, 2007.

(b) During the meeting, matters related to India-US bilateral relationship and ways to strengthen it were discussed.

Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh

1853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards press reports